SUB C3 cont. A1 cont.

13. (Amended)

The method of claim 12 wherein said ligase is T4 DNA ligase.

20. (Amended)

A method of nucleotide primers for use in PCR amplification of circularized cDNA comprising:

A2

a forward primer of from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases which hybridizes to a gene which is to be amplified, and

a reverse primer of from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases which hybridizes to a gene which is to be amplified, wherein said forward primer is towards the 3' end of said gene and said reverse primer is towards the 5' end of said gene.

21. (Amended)

A kit for amplifying first strand cDNA from a sample of mRNA comprising:

SUB D1

a DNA ligase,

a DNA polymerase,

a reverse transcriptase without Rnase H activity;

an enzyme for degrading mRNA from a cDNA - mRNA hybrid;

each of the four deoxynucleoside triphosphates (dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP); and

sequence specific primers.

Please add new claims 26-27:

26. (New)

A method for amplifying a polynucleotide sequence comprising:

A3

obtaining a linear, single strand polynucleotide sample;

SUB C7

ligating the ends of said sample to form a circular shaped sample;

introducing first and second sequence specific primers to said circular sample, wherein said primers are degenerate primers; and

[redacted]

SUB C7 CONT. A3 CONT.

initiating a primer extension amplification reaction to increase copy number of said circular sample.

27. (New)

A method for amplifying a polynucleotide sequence comprising:

obtaining a linear, single strand polynucleotide sample;

ligating the ends of said sample to form a circular shaped sample;

introducing first and second sequence specific primers to said circular sample, wherein said first and second primers are designed to hybridize to from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases from a sequence known or suspected to be present in said nucleic acid sample; and

initiating a primer extension amplification reaction to increase copy number of said circular sample.